

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23-26, 32-35,44-49 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 22, 27, 36,37, 38, 40, 50 as shown in the following listing of the entire claims in the application.

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A method of ~~treating or preventing atherosclerosis or coronary heart disease~~ reducing plasma cholesterol, reducing plasma homocysteine, reducing triacylglycerols in the liver, reducing the activity of Acyl-CoA: cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) and increasing mitochondrial β -oxidation in an animal in need thereof comprising administering to ~~an animal in need of such treatment,~~ said animal a pharmaceutical or nutritional composition comprising a single cell protein material, wherein the single cell protein material is harvested from a microbial culture comprising *Methylococcus capsulatus* (Bath), *Ralstonia sp.*, *Brevibacillus agri* and *Aneurinibacillus sp.* bacteria.

23-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently amended) A method of changing the fatty acyl profile ~~and for improving the lipid homeostasis~~ of an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment, a pharmaceutical or nutritional composition comprising a single cell protein material, wherein the single cell protein material is harvested from a microbial culture comprising *Methylococcus capsulatus* (Bath), *Ralstonia sp.*, *Brevibacillus agri* and *Aneurinibacillus sp.*

28. (withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein said animal is a human.

29. (withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein said animal is an agricultural animal selected from the group consisting of gallinaceous birds, bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine.

30. (withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein said animal is a domestic animal.

31. (withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein said animal is a fish or shellfish.

32-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 32~~ any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein the microbial culture is produced by continuous aerobic fermentation of the microbial culture. ~~preferably operated with 2-3% biomass (on a dry weight basis).~~

37. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 32~~ any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein the microbial culture after fermentation is subjected to centrifugation in an industrial continuous centrifuge, preferably at 3,000 rpm, followed by ultrafiltration using membranes having an exclusion size of about ~~preferable~~ 100,000 Daltons to produce the single cell protein material.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the single-cell protein material is further subjected to a sterilization step, ~~preferable~~ in a heat exchanger.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein the single-cell protein material is further subjected to a homogenization step.

40. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 32~~ any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein the single-cell protein material is dried by spray drying.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein prior to spray drying, the single cell protein material is held in a storage tank at a temperature of less than 20°C. and pH of less than about 6.5.

42. (Cancelled).

43. (withdrawn) The nutritional composition of any one of claims 22 or 27, wherein the composition is a food grade product or additive.

44-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 45~~ any one of claims 22 or 27,
wherein the single- cell protein material contains a protein content of about 70% on a dry-weight basis.